

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 20, 21 and 23 is respectfully acknowledged.

Claim 21 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form to including all of the limitations of parent claim 20.

In addition, new claim 24 has been added to recite the subject matter of amended independent claim 21 in "computer-readable medium" form.

Still further, claims 20, 21 and 23 have also been amended to overcome the claim objections and the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, made by the Examiner on pages 5-8 of the Final Office Action.

With respect to the enablement rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that claims 20 and 23 are fully enabled by the disclosure in the specification. In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that the first and second communication means of claim 20 correspond to the communication module 27, and the specification has been amended at page 8 to clarify this point. In addition,

it is respectfully pointed out that the first and second communication means correspond to the data amount accounting method and the connection time accounting method, respectively, which are described in the specification at, for example, page 18, lines 12-18, page 20, lines 12-23 and page 21, line 24 to page 22, line 4. Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that the computer-readable recording medium of claim 23 is described in the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 9-16.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116, and that the claim objections and the 35 USC 112 rejections be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended at pages 7-8 to indicate that the communication module 27 shown in Fig. 1A corresponds to the first and second data communication means.

In addition, the abstract has been amended to better accord with the requirements of MPEP 608.01(b) as required by the Examiner.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE DRAWINGS

It is respectfully submitted that each and every feature of the invention specified in the pending claims is clearly shown in the drawings. For example, the features of the first and second data communication means and the first and second calculating means as recited in claim 20 are shown in Figs. 1A, 7B and 8B. In particular, it is noted that the first calculating means is shown, for example, in step S51 of Fig. 7B and in step S32e of Fig. 8B, and the second calculating means is shown, for example, in step S53 of Fig. 7B.

Accordingly, no amendments to the drawings are deemed necessary, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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